

PACKET PREPROCESSING INTERFACE FOR MULTIPROCESSOR NETWORK HANDLER

Abstract of the Disclosure

A network handler uses a DMA device to assign packets to network processors in accordance with a mapping function which classifies packets based on its content, e.g., bits in one or more header fields. Preferably, the mapping function is implemented as a hash function, which uses a predetermined number of bits from packet as inputs. The result of this function specifies the processor to which the packet is assigned. To make implementation manageable in a high-traffic environment, each processor may be equipped with a queue, which holds pointer information. Such a pointer provides an indication of the area in memory where incoming packet resides. The network handler is particularly useful in a Fibre Channel environment, where the hash function may be implemented to assign all packets from the same sequence to the same processor, thereby resulting in improved processing efficiency.

E The following are the names of the persons who have been appointed as members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation since the last meeting of the Board of Directors: